

EPISODE #72
October 1, 1992

The Valley **COMIC**

N • E • W • S

STORIES:
EYE OF THE STORM
ALL TOGETHER NOW....
AT THE ETHNIC CLEANERS
THE PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON FISCAL FITNESS
LINCOLN/DOUGLAS THEY AIN'T
BEYOND POLITIX

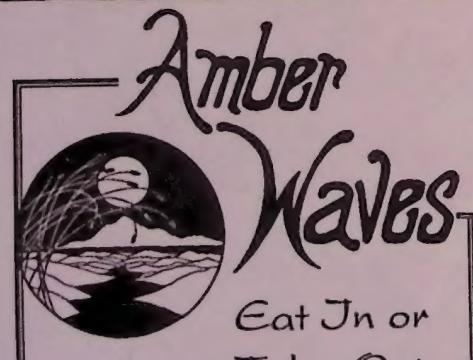
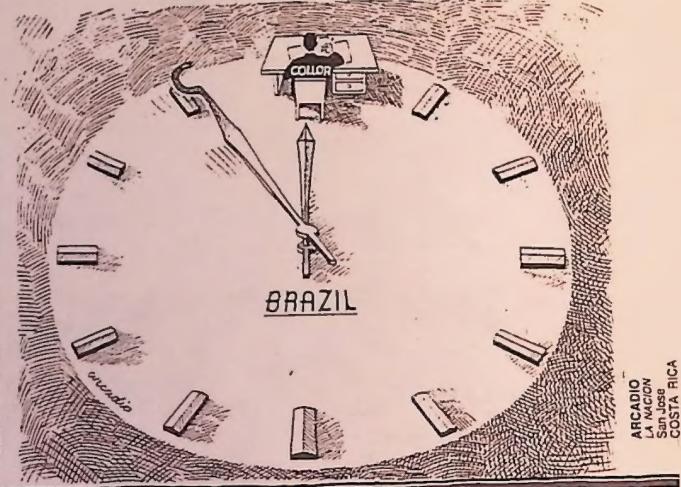
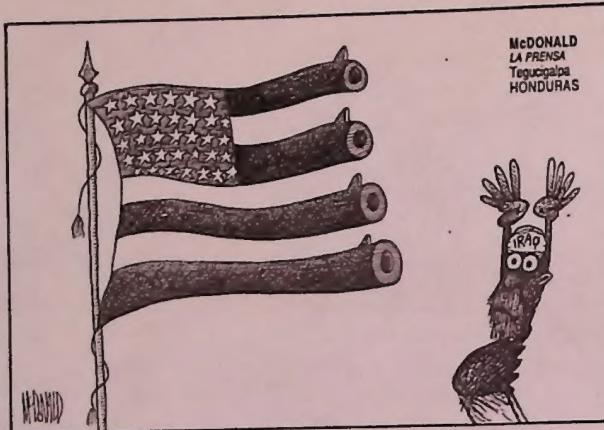
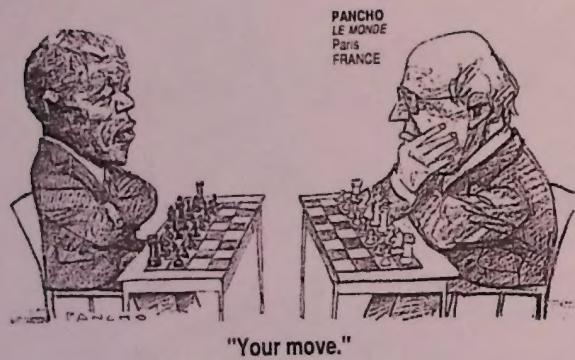
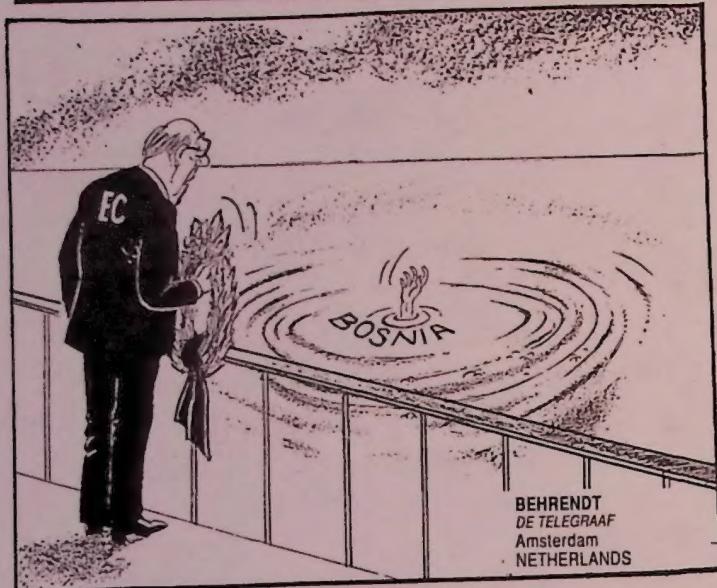


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LOCAL HEROES

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*MEMBERS!



This is the second in the sporadic introduction of our cartoonists. Chris Ekman is somebody you used to find in Local Heroes, but now is a regular political cartoonist. Chris lives in Harvard, Mass., and has been cartooning only a few years. We at the *Comic News* love Chris's caricatures and his insight. And folks, this dude is just getting started: he's fifteen years old!

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

Every once in a while a news item of overwhelming stupidity reaches my desk. Usually when this happens, busloads of other wags, pundits and fourth estate sleazoids have already jumped all over it, and by the time I rub the sleep out of my eyes, there's a dozen articles in print about how high this particular news item has scored on the idiot chart. But I didn't see anybody else mention the thing I'm gonna tell you about, so maybe I'll lead the way for the rest of them.

You know this weather we've been having? It's like the coldest summer on record, right? It's The Summer That Never Was. It's the coldest July and August since 1816, the year after Krakatoa exploded. You've no doubt heard meteorologists attributing the unusual weather to another volcanic eruption. This even includes some Republican meteorologists, who are quick to point out that it's not the President's fault. The culprit is Mt. Pinatubo in the Phillipines, a delightful mountain that for five days in June 1991 blew up with the equivalent of 2000 to 3000 Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs. And it hasn't quit yet, blowing its top as recently as July of this year (1992).

The eruptions have killed six hundred people, left three hundred thousand homeless, and put six hundred thousand out of work — and this in a country with a population of only fifty million. But careful news-readers will recognize Mt. Pinatubo as more than an angry element of nature; it's also an instrument of foreign policy. Its erupting eventually forced the closing of both the Clark Air Force Base and the Subic Naval Base, which many Filipinos had been trying to get us out of for years.

Don't worry; the overwhelmingly stupid part is coming up next.

Lots of people are wondering what will become of these two military bases. Turns out Clark is pretty much gonzo: thousands of tons of ash fell on it, and scores of its buildings were crushed. That leaves Subic, which is severely damaged but standing, and sits all of 20 miles away from the volcano — well sir, Universal Studios and Walt Disney Co. want to take it over. Why in the name of Bambi would they do this, you may ask? You guessed it: they want to put up a studio complex and a Disneyland!

The volcano has already erupted at least once since this insane announcement reached the papers this July. So it doesn't take an Einstein to figure out that Pinatubo is what volcano scientists call an "active" volcano. "Active" is an ancient Aztec word meaning "awake and demanding human sacrifice." I think Disney and Universal know this. I think it's part of their new design — the cutting edge for entertainment in the nineties. And I bet I know exactly how they're gonna promote the new Disney World Far East:

"Attention, thrill-seekers of all ages!!!!"

Thought you were scared inside Thunder Mountain?

Felt like wetting your pants at the Haunted House?

Trembled a little when you saw King Kong?

HAH!

Wait till you try to outrun an actual lava flow!

Imagine the adrenaline rush as you struggle to breathe through falling ash!

Experience genuine panic when your loved ones stumble to the ground around you!

Decide on the spot if you've got enough guts to return with the rescue team!

We dare you to come to The New Universal Studios/Disney World Far East!

It makes Orlando look like miniature golf!!!

And the scariest part of all, gentle readers, is this news item was from the staid and Brahmin *Boston Globe*. In other words, *not* from a supermarket tabloid. In other words, no matter how bizarre and surreal it seems, *they aren't making it up!*

The Valley Comic News

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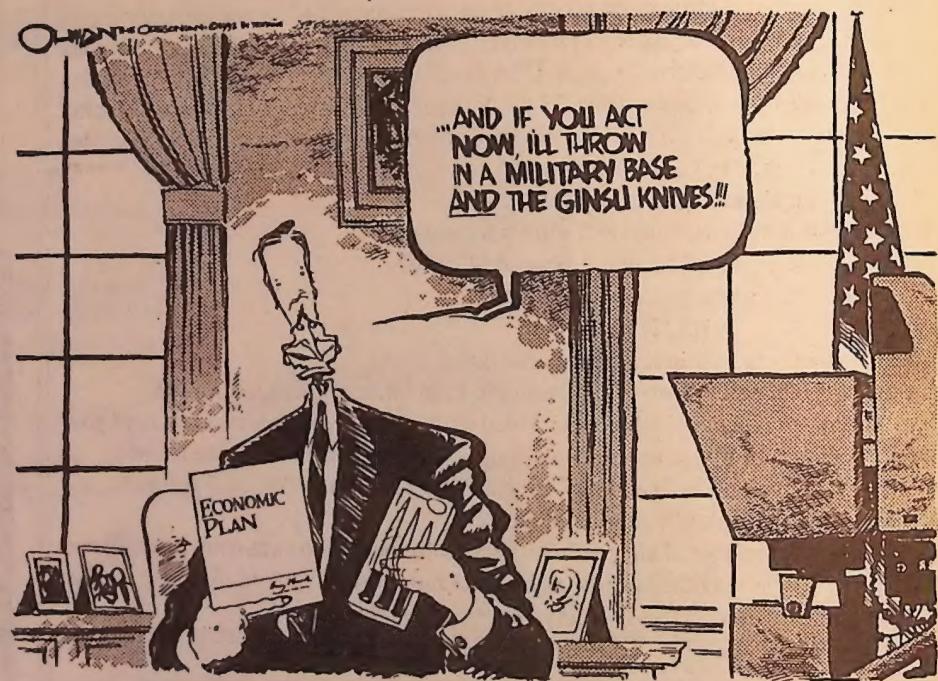
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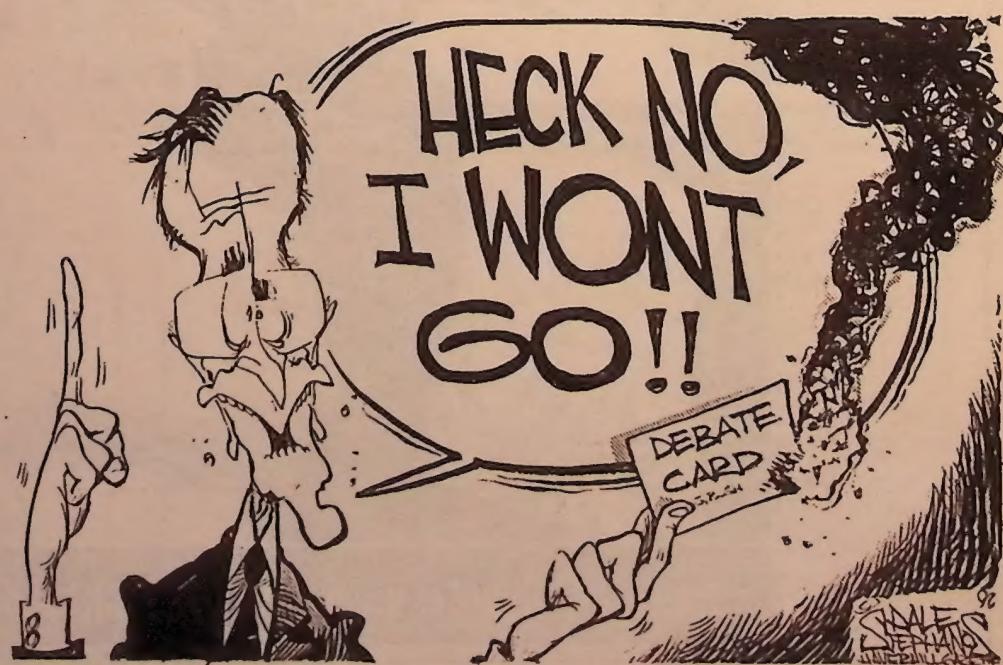
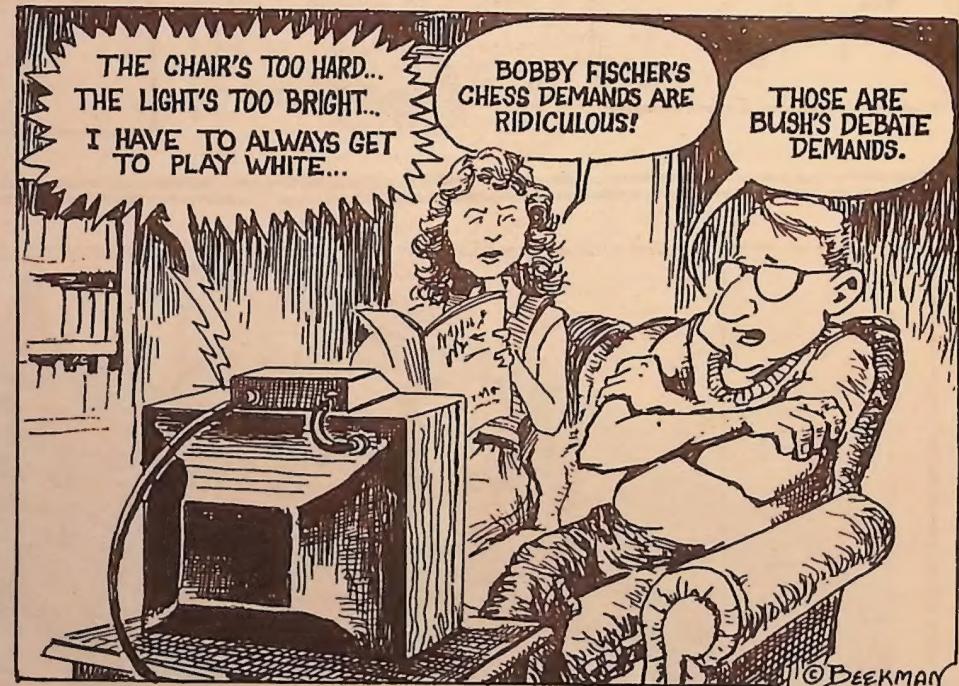
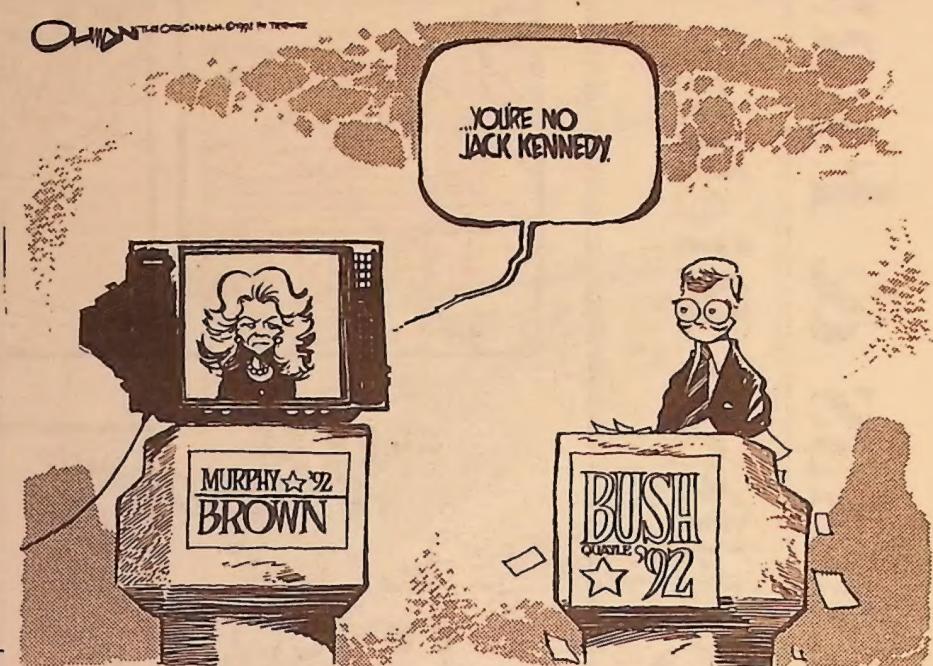
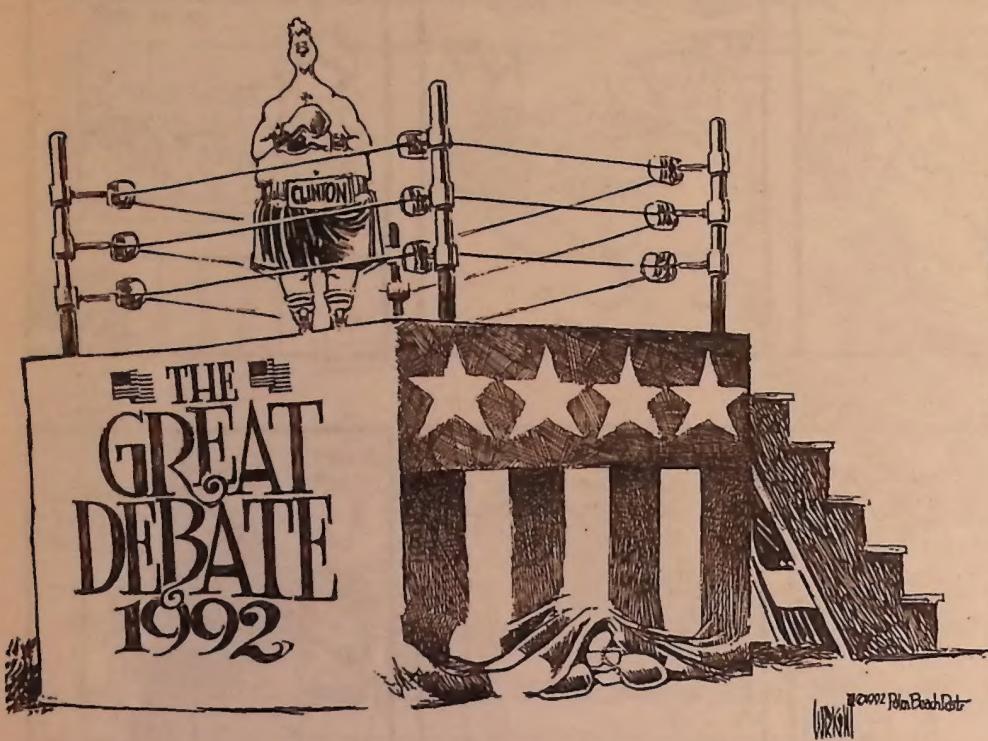
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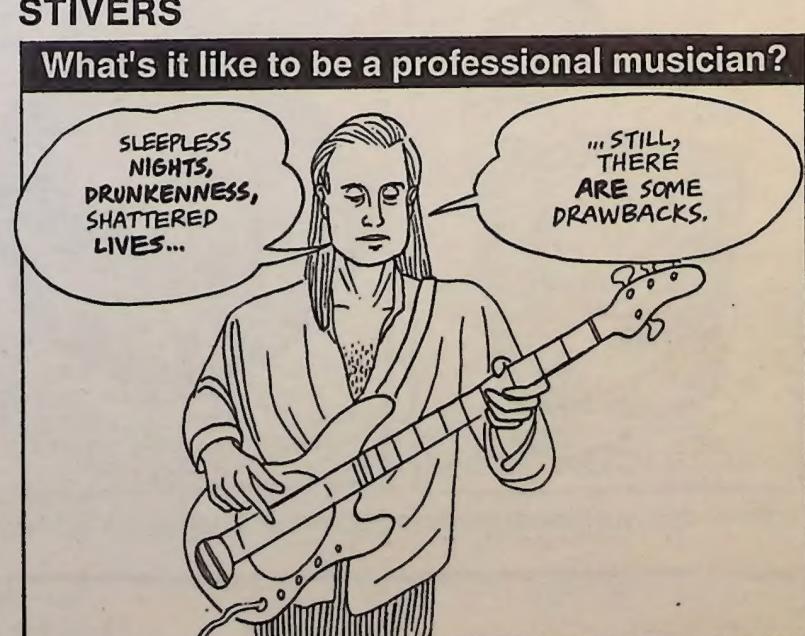
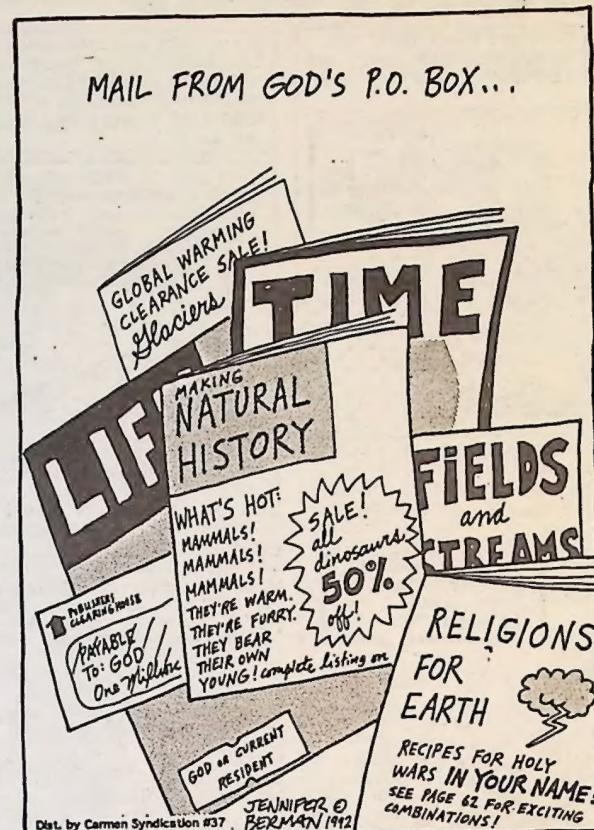
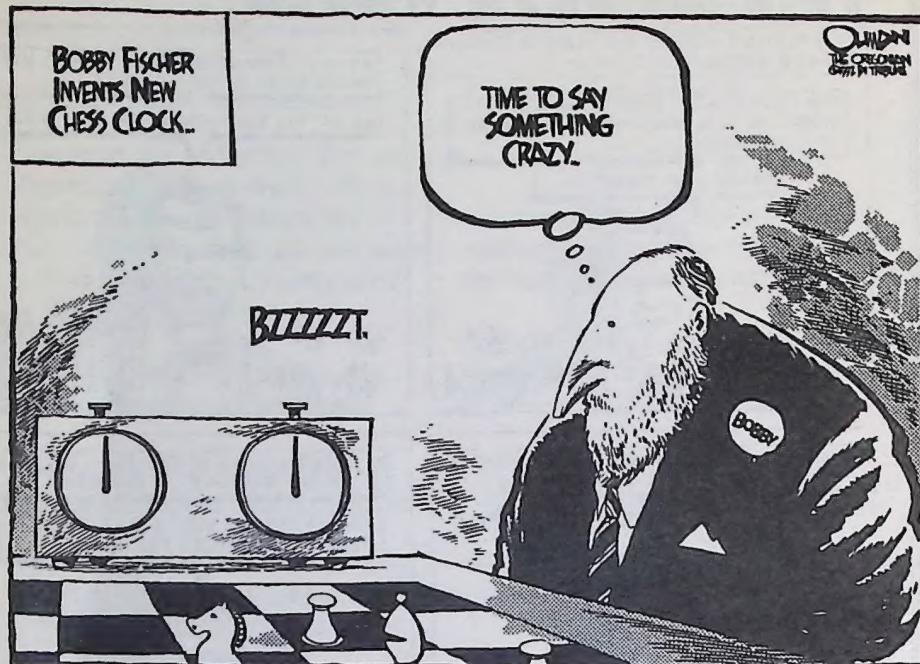
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By Steve Riehm



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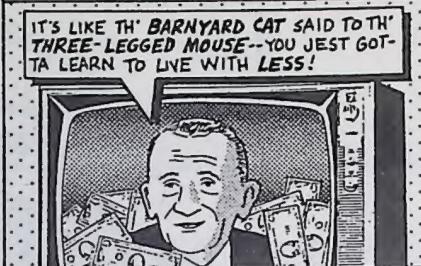
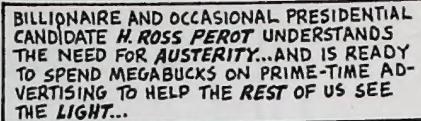


THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW @ 9-29-92

**IN THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES, WE'RE ALL
GOING TO HAVE TO TIGHTEN OUR BELTS AND
DO WITHOUT. A FEW NON-ESSENTIAL LUX-
URIES...**



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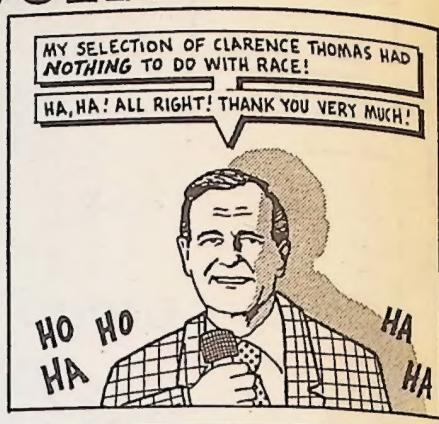


THIS MODERN WORLD

IT'S AMERICA'S NUMBER ONE STANDUP COMIC--
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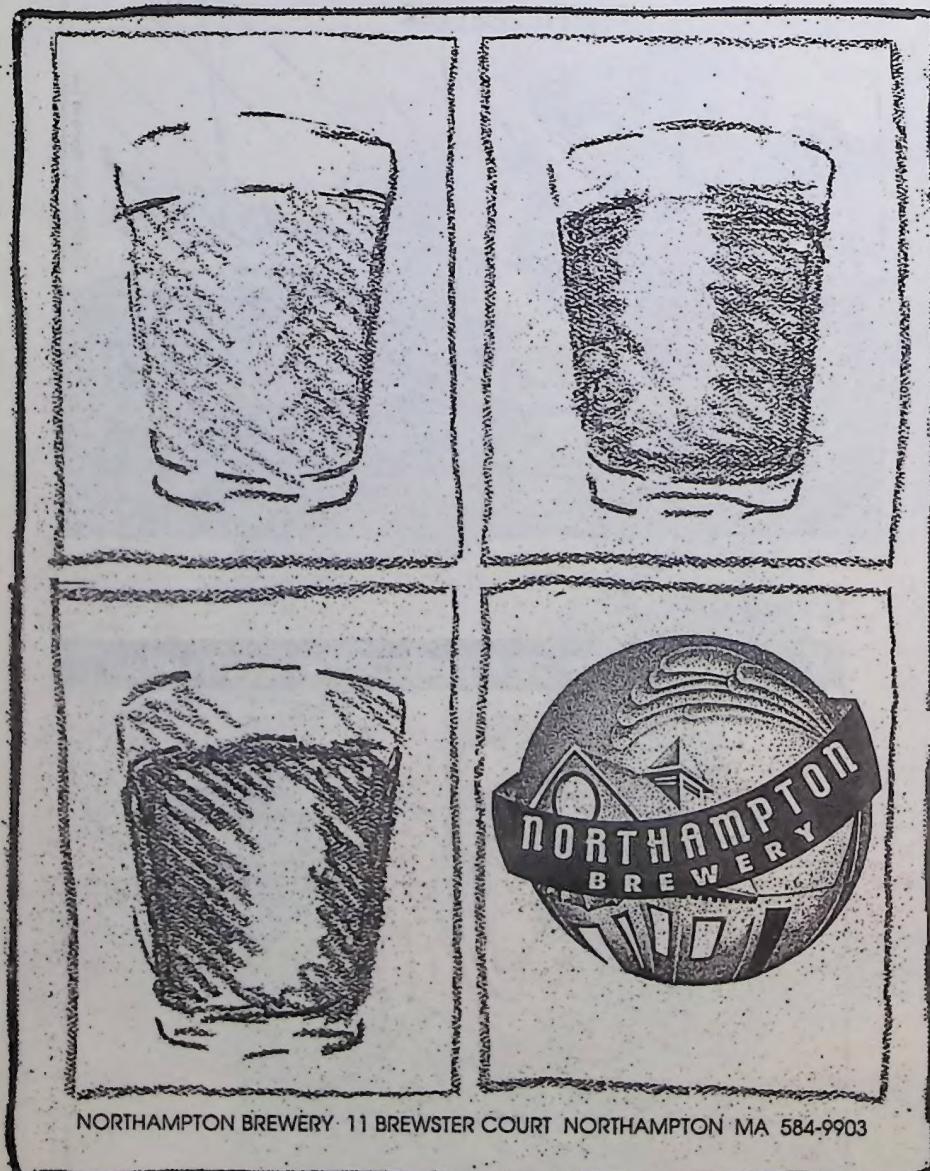
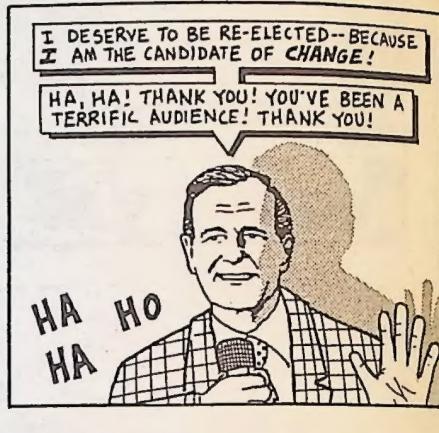
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HA, HA! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

Q. How long does it take a speedy experienced igloo-maker to make an igloo for two?

A. About 45 minutes.

The word "biscuit" comes from the French for "cooked twice." Since when are biscuits cooked twice? Since they went to sea. Biscuits were cooked twice so they'd keep longer aboard ships.

An ordinance of Willowdale, Ore., prohibits profanity during sex.

Grandma Moses completed 25 paintings in the year she turned 100.

The cockroach is fastidious. If you touch one with your fingertip, it will clean itself frantically to get the humany gunk off.

Claim is a pro basketball player runs farther in two games than does a pro football player in an entire season.

Market researchers report the No. 1 beverage nationwide is beer.

Eyes of the Mount Rushmore presidents are 11 feet wide.

Q. What was the first dance that allowed a man to put his arms around a woman in public?

A. The waltz.

"Xerox" is Greek for "dry."

Laws were enforced in the 15th century to ensure that nobody except the nobility would carry handkerchiefs.

In Baltimore, you can't legally throw a bale of hay out a second-story window.

Again am asked why Germans are called "Germans." When their ancient forefathers entered battle, they shouted, yelled, hollered a lot, and the Gauls called them "Germani" from a Celtic word meaning "to shout."

Yes, an armadillo can be housebroken.

Q. It was Machiavelli, was it not, who said, "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely?"

A. Lord Acton said that. Machiavelli said, "Whoever desires to found a state and give it laws must start by assuming that all men are bad...."

What makes Mars red is that it's rusty.

It was not customary for people to sleep in private bedrooms until about 500 years ago. Before then, family members bundled in a common bedding corner.

In Newcastle, Wyo., it's specifically illegal to make love inside a walk-in freezer.

Geologists inform us that approximately 89 percent of the earth's surface — that's land and underseas — was spewed out of volcanoes.

In poker, don't forget, if you're dealt a pair, that increases odds your opponent is dealt a pair, too.

That word "hick" started out in the 1500s as a nickname for Richard. But it didn't get around to mean "country bumpkin" until about 1920. During the several decades before 1920, an unsophisticated provincial person was called a "jay." Whence "jaywalking."

Yes, the moon has moon-quakes.

All houseflies are born fully grown.

There's a difference between "poultry" and "fowl," you know. Poultry is domesticated.

Ice cream freezes at 27 degrees F.

Ninety-nine percent of everything alive on earth is vegetable, not animal.

In Spades, Ind., it's illegal to open a can of food by shooting it with a revolver.

Historians say the United States was the first nation on earth with a known birthday.

It was the custom of women in ancient Egypt to pluck all the hair from their heads and then buff their scalps to a high shine.

Q. Any good reason why the Koreans bury their dead in the mountains?

A. Long ago it was decreed they need their flatland for farming.

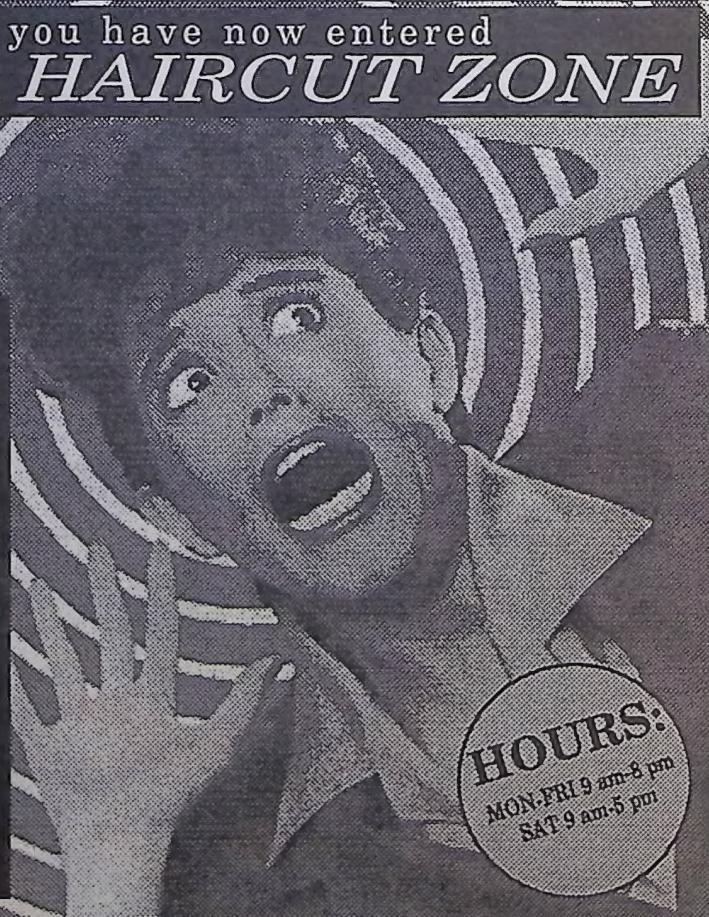
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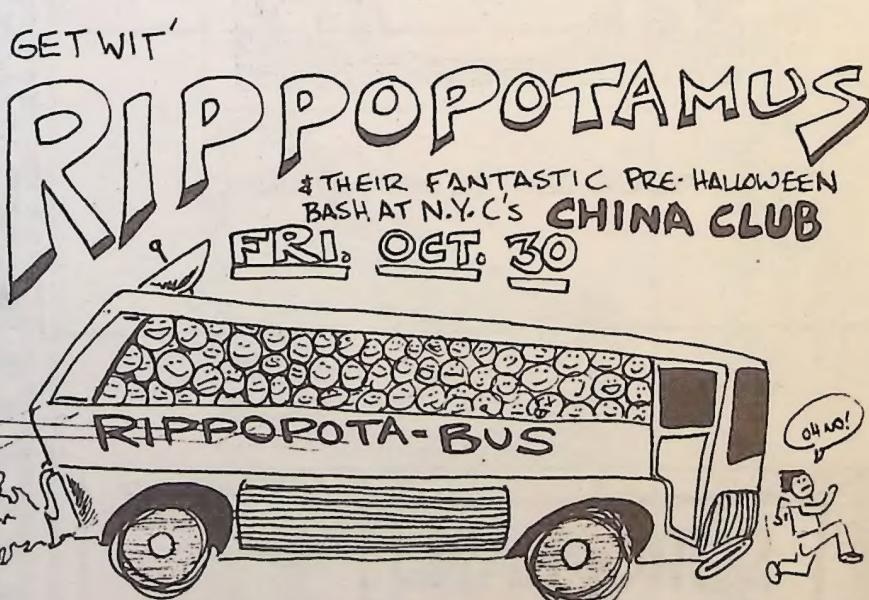
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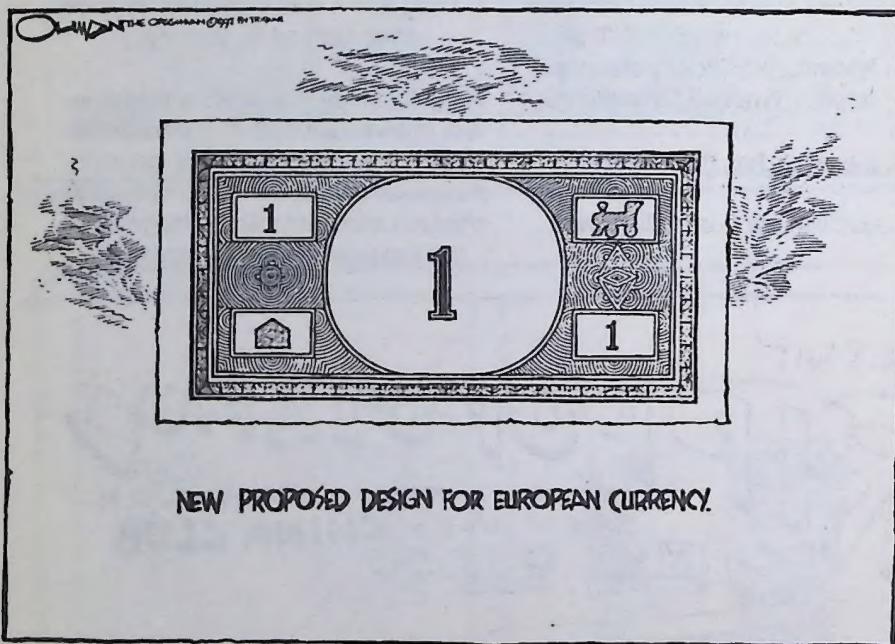
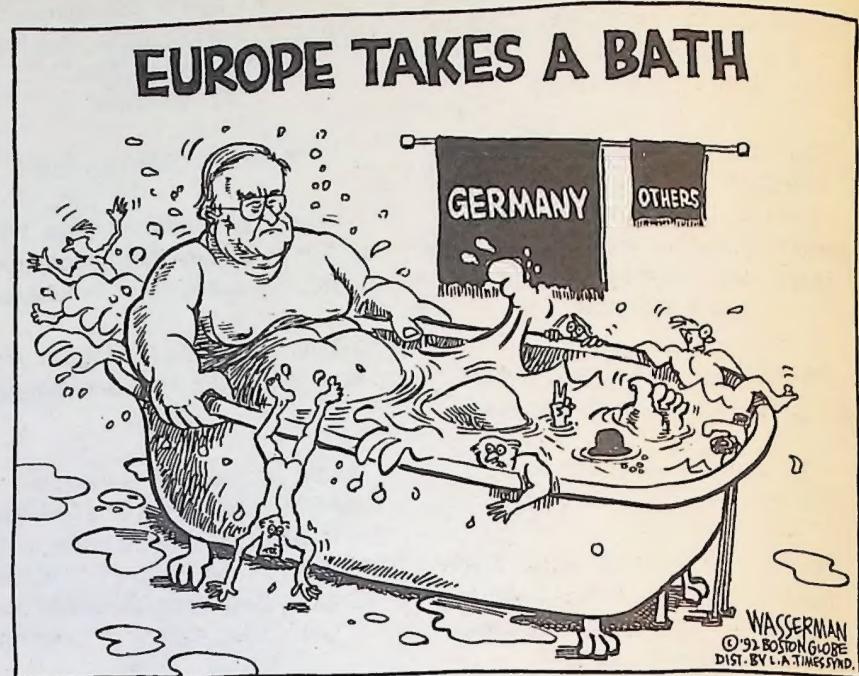
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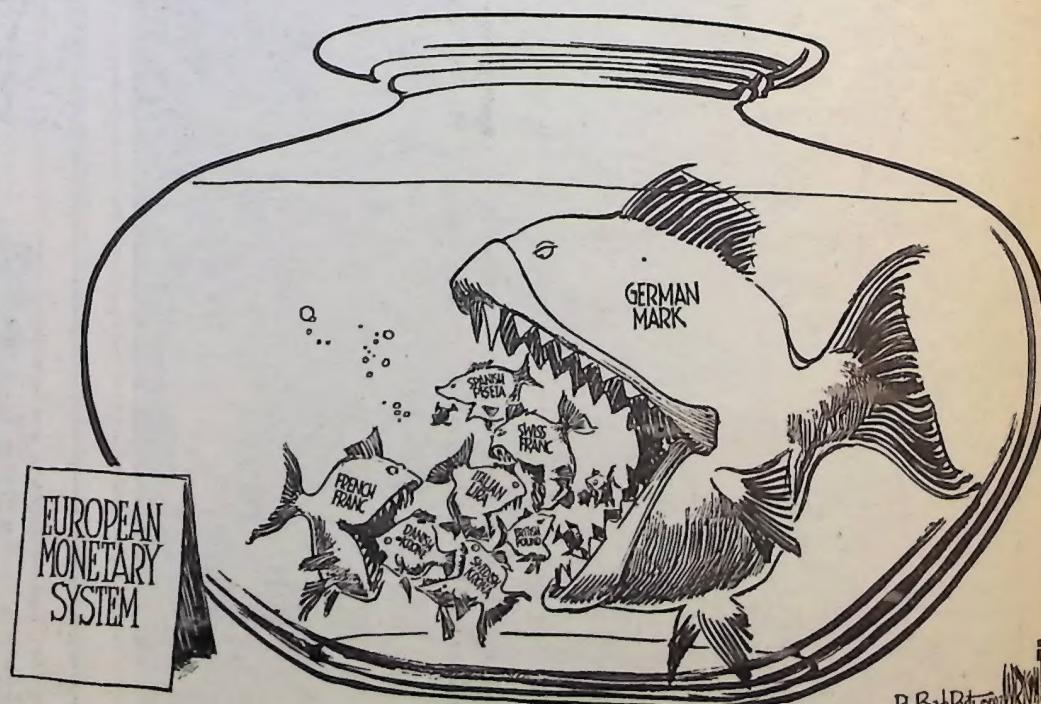
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JOE BOB BRIGGS

You noticed all the people walking around with camcorders lately?

They've got that all-camcorder station in El Lay — Camnet — where reporters go all over town and *never turn the camera off*. They drive down the freeway, knock on doors, stop to photograph stuff in the park. And there's something about it that draws you in. You start watching and you *can't stop*. Then there's "1 News" in New York, where they show up at crime scenes with camcorders and record the *whole damn thing*. That's all they show, 24 hours a day, footage from guys out on the streets of New York running camcorders in people's faces.

Of course, some of the people are just trying to win the \$10,000 prize on "America's Funniest Home Videos." "Okay, we're rolling — go ahead, dear, roll the baby down the driveway — this will be great."

We've got people trying to catch somebody doing a crime, like the cops beating up Rodney King,

and make a million bucks selling it to "Hard Copy." Most of those end up on "I Witness Videos," NBC's show where a knife fight is, like *huge* ratings. Car wrecks are not out of the question.

"Court TV" continues to amaze me. People watch this thing all day long — I've been sucked into it myself — even when lawyers are standing around saying, "Your Honor, I think the admissibility of the corroborating evidence is plainly evident from the citations we've given you..." — because it's not what the guy is saying. It's *how* he's saying it. And you keep thinking, "You know, this guy would have a whole lot better chance of winning this case if he'd cut those little hairs that are sticking out of his ear."

In other words, *real life* has become hip. Any kind of real life. The cheap camcorder is revolutionary. It's democratic. It's *American*.

But there's one thing we haven't done with the camcorder yet, and I think it's high time. We haven't taken the camcorder to the place we spend most of our lives, the

place where the longest-running human drama happens, the place where *somebody* needs to see what *really* goes on.

I speak, of course, of the office.

Let's do it. Come on. It'll be fun. Tomorrow, when you leave for the office, take your camcorder with you, and *never turn it off*. Tape everything. Watch what happens. *Everything* in your life becomes easier.

The boss walks into your office and says, "Briggs, did you get that report done yet?" And then he sees the camera.

"Is that on?...I don't wanna rush you, Joe Bob, but I'd appreciate it if we could have that report in the next couple days."

How about the woman in the next cubicle who's always trying to make you look incompetent? Stick the camcorder out in the hallway for awhile. Is that her coming out of the ladies room, *still yanking on her panty hose as she emerges*?

Save it for the Christmas party. You'll be a celebrity.

Better yet, how about when they call you in for your salary review?

It starts off like this: "Joe Bob, we're a little concerned about your hours. Sometimes you're here at 9, sometimes not till 9:30. It's become a problem."

Whip out the old camcorder, and say, "Oh, really, do you mean that even when I work until 7 or 8 at night, you want to quibble with me over coming in late?"

"Well, it *is* company policy."

"Would you rather I go home at 5, but always be here on time?"

The salary review person is smiling now. "Well, it's not *that* big a thing."

Remember, logic only works when you have a witness.

Are you following this?

I mean it.

The high sheriffs will hate it. Let's do it.

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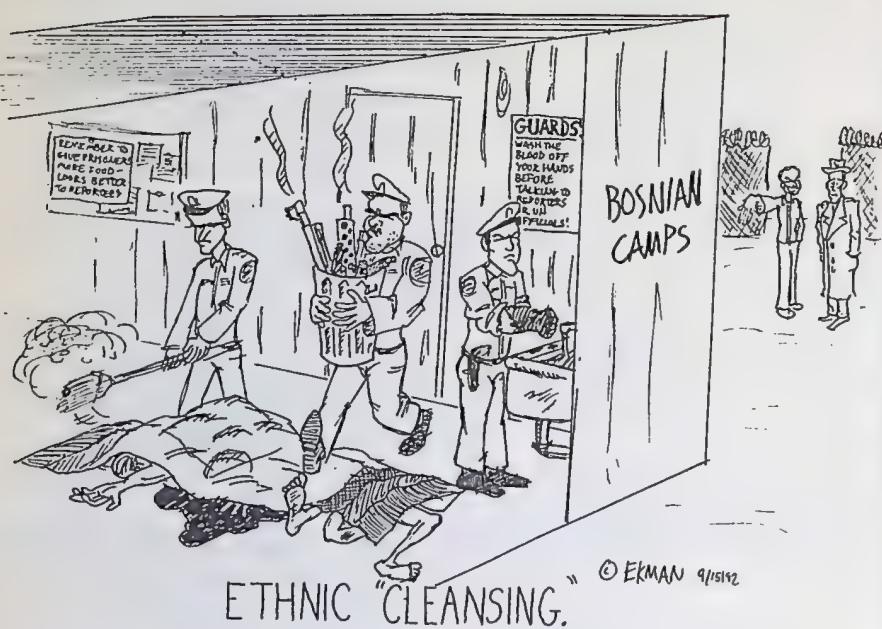
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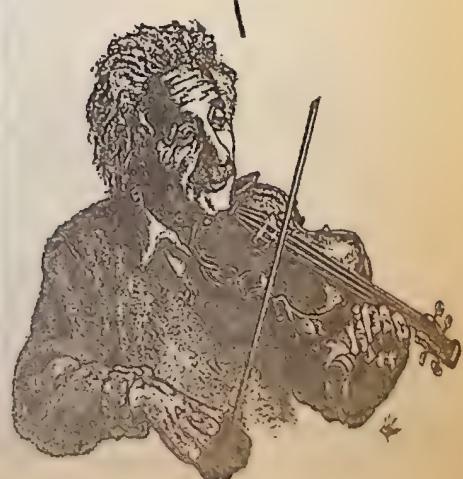
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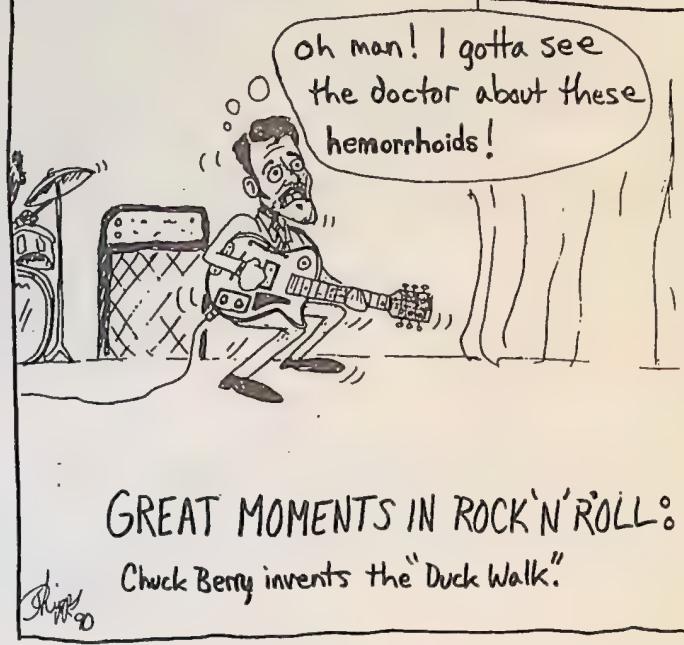
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by Paul Phipps



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dog feathers

by Giles Hopkins



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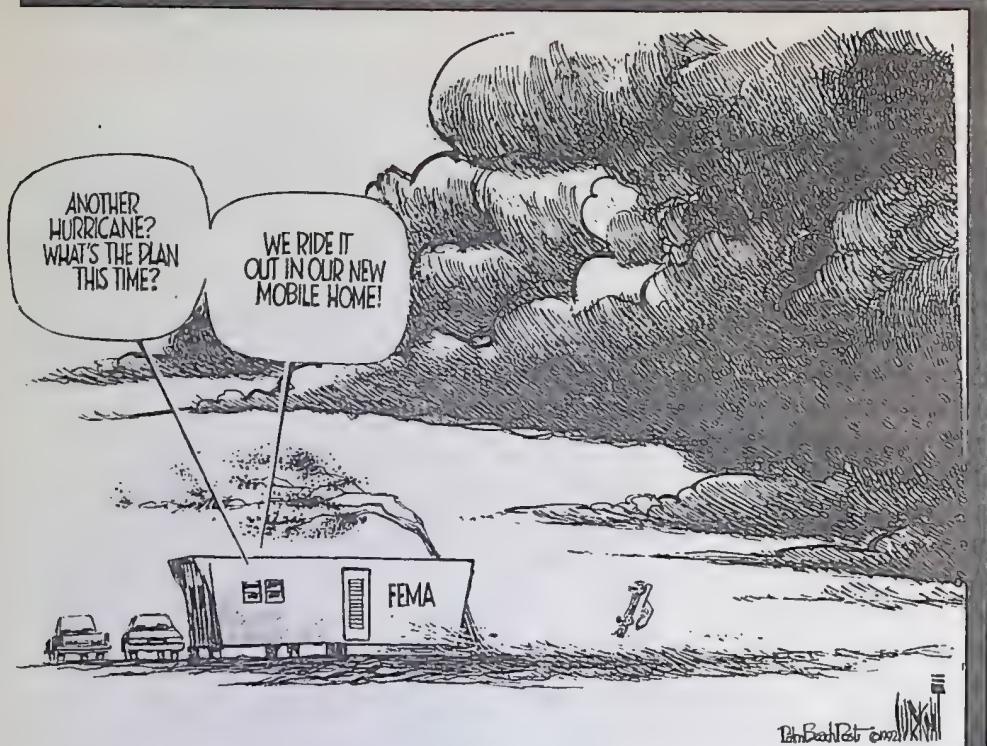
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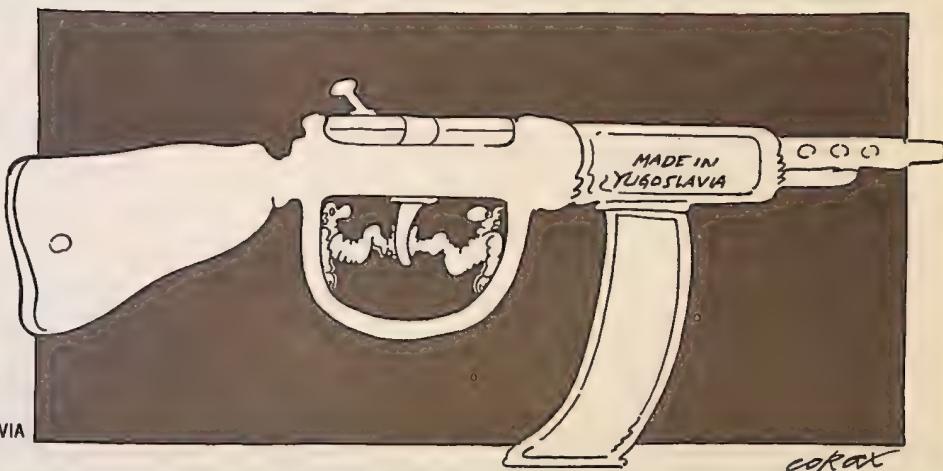
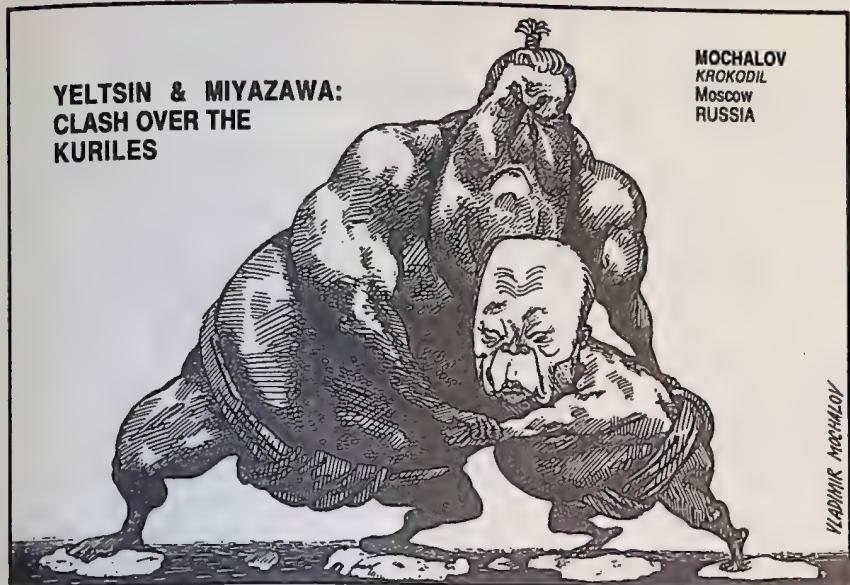
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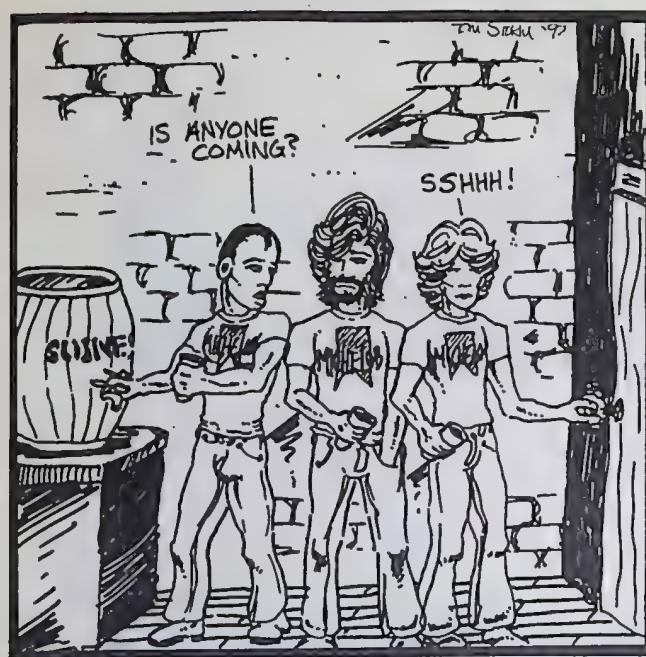
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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Tropical Storms



Hurricane Iwa, known as the "Kauai Hurricane," was the most powerful hurricane to hit Hawaii this century. It caused about \$1.6 billion in damage as it devastated Kauai. Most tourist resorts on the "Garden Island" were wrecked by Iniki, and officials said that almost all of the island's 21,000 homes suffered at least some damage.

Suffered at least some damage.

Hurricane Andrew left the equivalent of 30 years of garbage behind as it plowed through South Florida in early September. "It's almost as though everyone cleaned out their closets and their yards, and dumped it all on the curb at the same time," said Carol Browner, secretary of Florida's Department of Environmental Regulation. Experts wonder how well the nearby Everglades ecosystem will be able to handle the debris blown in from Miami.

Typhoon Sibyl lost force after passing just to the east of Japan. Tropical storms Paine and Roslyn formed off the coast of Mexico.

formed off the coast of Mexico.

Monsoon Floods

Monsoon Floods



The worst outbreak of flooding and landslides to strike the foothills of the Himalaya this century continued for a second week, washing away entire villages in northern India and Pakistan. More than 4,000 people have perished, and millions of acres of crops have been destroyed by the disaster. The magnitude and severity of the inundations is being blamed partly on the wholesale felling of trees on the south side of the mountain range during the past two decades. Without the trees to protect the slopes, heavy rains washed down a thunderous mixture of water, silt, and boulders.

Earthquakes



S Seven people are known to have died in eastern Zaire from the most powerful earthquake ever to strike central Africa. A hospital and railway station in the town of Kabalo were

A world map illustrating cold weather events and record temperatures for the week ending September 18, 1992. The map shows the following data points:

- Iniki**: 3.9°C (in the North Atlantic)
- Paine**: 5.5°C (in the North Atlantic)
- Andrew**: 4.9°C (in the North Atlantic)
- Roslyn**: 4.7°C (in South America)
- 4.5**: 4.5°C (in South America)
- 4.9**: 4.9°C (in North America)
- 6.7**: 6.7°C (in Africa)
- 107**: -107°F (-18°C) at the **South Pole, Antarctica**
- +113**: +113°F (+45°C) at **Ahwaz, Iran**
- 4.6**: 4.6°C (in Europe)
- 4.3**: 4.3°C (in Japan)
- 5.4**: 5.4°C (in Australia)
- Sibyl**: (a cyclone symbol in the North Atlantic)

*For the week ending
September 18, 1992*

©1992 Chronicle Features

appeared at a critical point in the region's growing season.

Nesting Tragedy



2 Thousands of flamingos, which returned for the first time in centuries to breed at a Spanish nature reserve, abandoned their nests after being frightened by fire-fighting aircraft. The birds fled the Ebro Delta in northeast Spain after the planes accidentally flew low over the restricted area, scooping up water. The flamingos flew off and returned after the first pass, but left for good after a second. "Within hours, the dozens of eggs left behind were attacked by gulls," said Alberto Martinez, director of the national park. Conservationists had tried to encourage flamingos to nest there for years.

Additional Sources: British Meteorological Office, Japan Meteorological Organization, U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the United Nations World Meteorological Organization.

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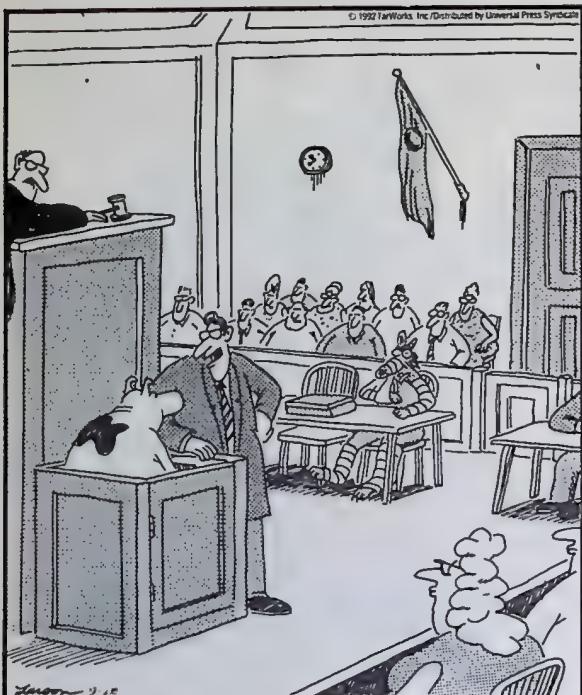
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The Valley Comic News • October 1, 1992 17

THE FAR SIDE

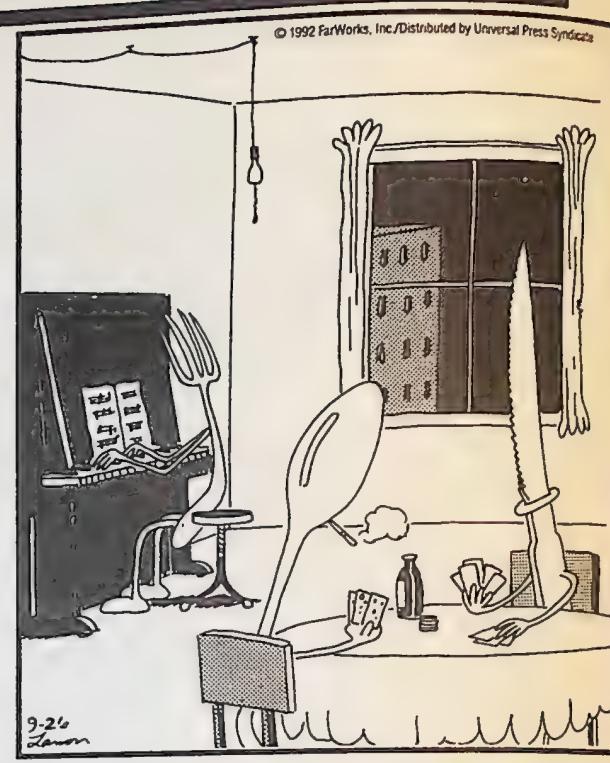
BY GARY LARSON



"In fact, you *like* to build fires, don't you, Mr. Pig? Building fires and burning wild animals a pastime of yours, Mr. Pig? Did you know my client is an endangered species, Mr. Pig, while you yourself are nothing more than a walking side of ham?"



"OK, ma'am, you said you warned your husband to put the newspaper down or you'd blow him away.... Did he respond?"



In the early days, living in their squalid apartment, all three shared dreams of success. In the end, however, Bob the Spoon and Ernie the Fork wound up in an old silverware drawer and only Mac went on to fame and fortune.



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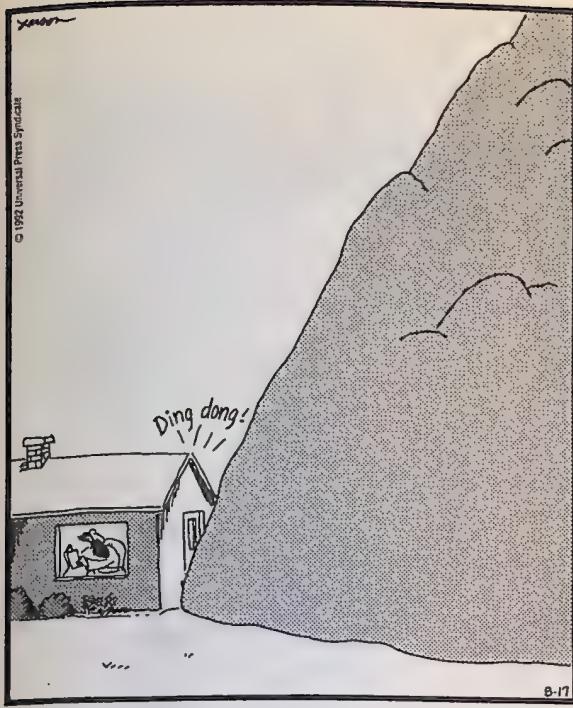
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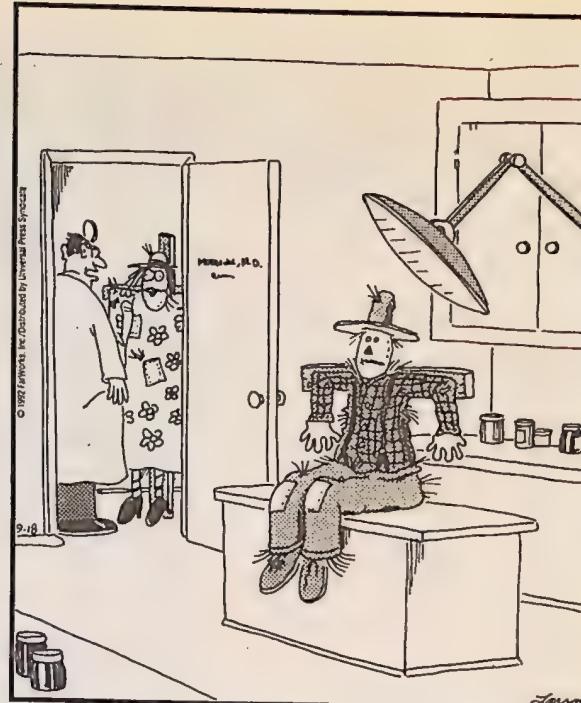
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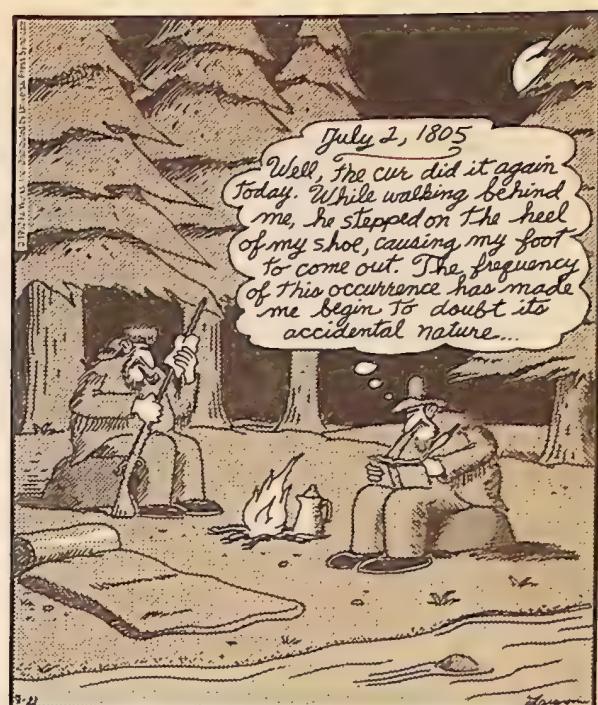
• 150 Main Street • Thorne's Market • Northampton •



Again the doorbell chimed. With his wife out of town, and not expecting any visitors, Mohammed began to grow uneasy.



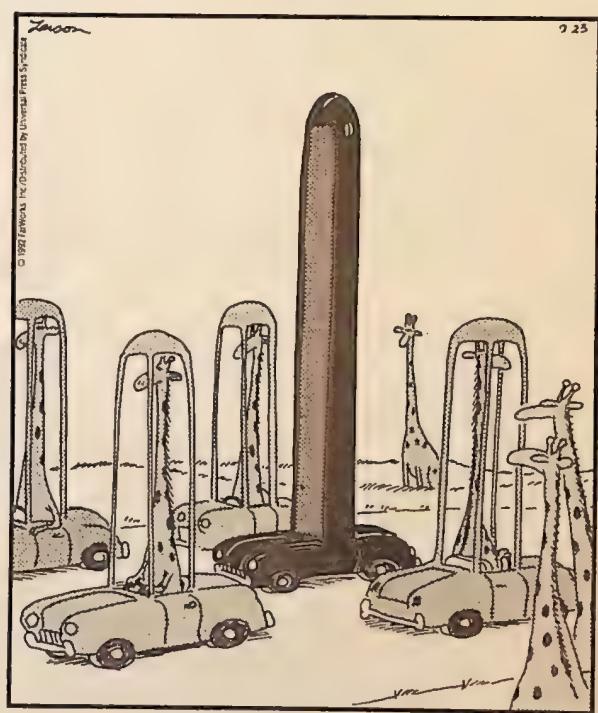
"It's not good, ma'am. . . He's got field mice."



Tensions mount on the Lewis and Clark expedition.



"AAAAAAA! It's Sid! Someone snuffed him!"



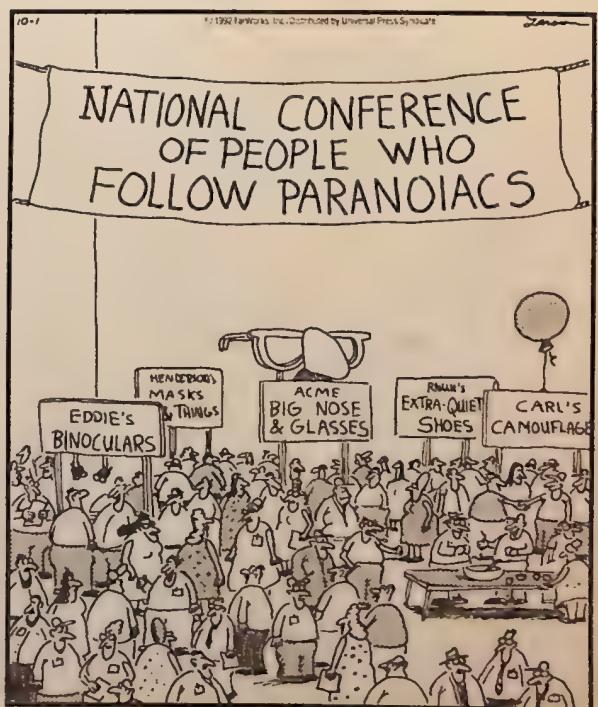
Giraffe limousines



Suddenly, the cops stepped into the clearing, and the Spamshiners knew they were busted.



At the professional stick chaser's training camp.



Boy, it takes a while to forget your old girlfriend.

The other night I was waiting in the ticket line at a movie theater with another girl and a nearby public phone was ringing and I really thought it was my old girlfriend calling me to ask if I wanted to meet her for an ice cream later on that night.

Really, after a while my old girlfriend and I weren't any good anymore, anyway.

I'd better start a hobby.

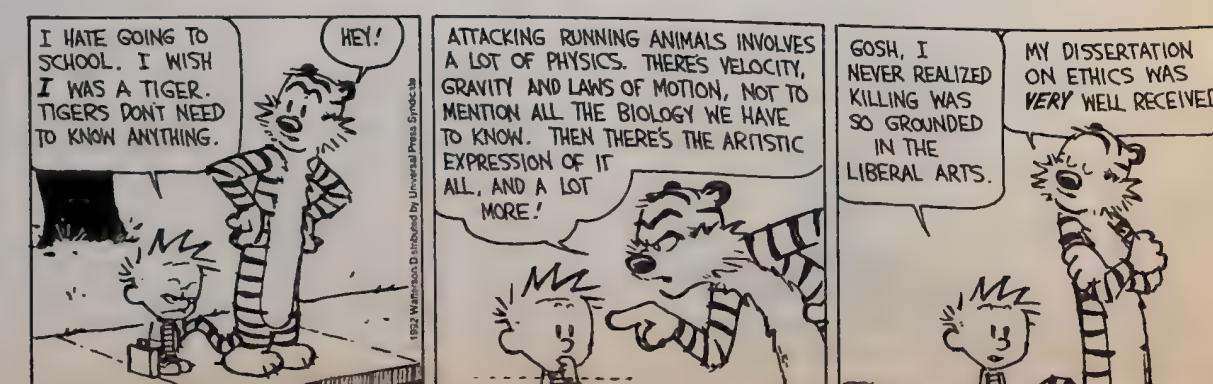
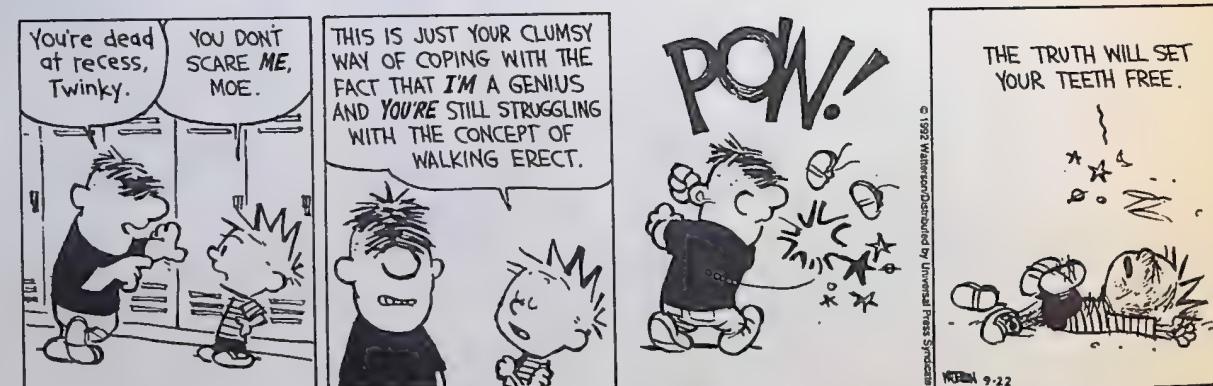
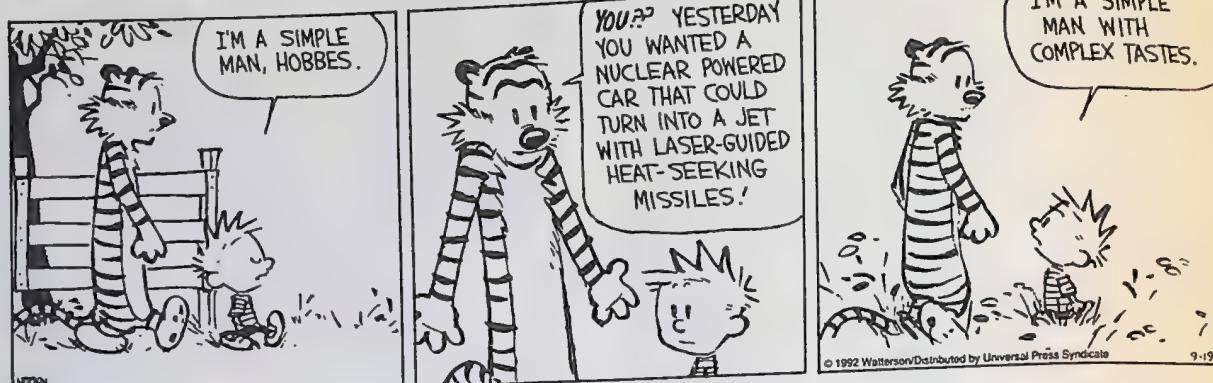
Maybe I'll paint very tiny figurines of the combalants of the Zulu war of 1879.

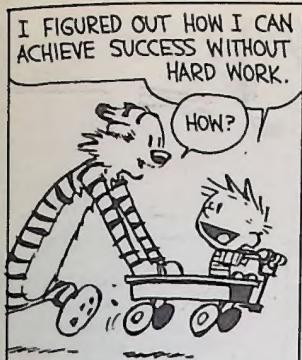
Yeah, that'll do it., I'll paint lots of little things I can barely see.



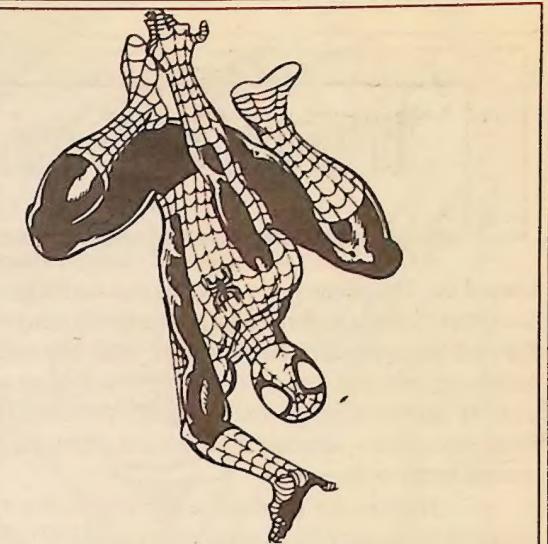
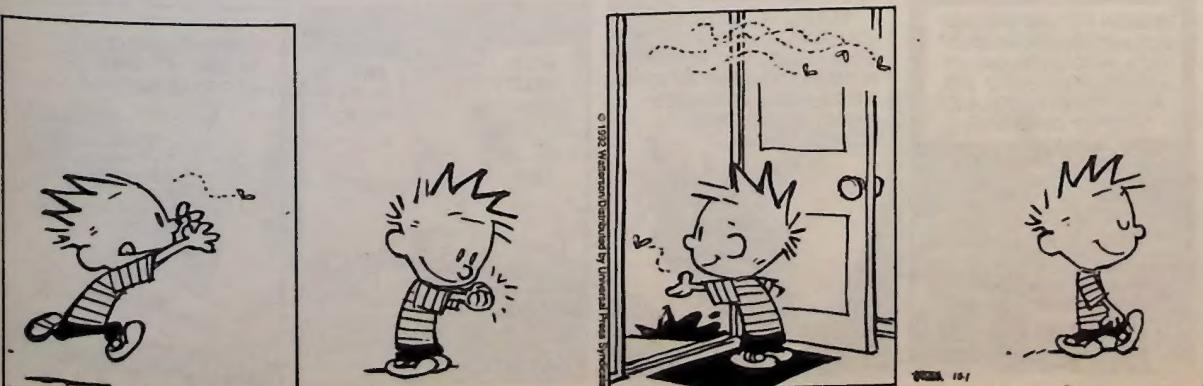
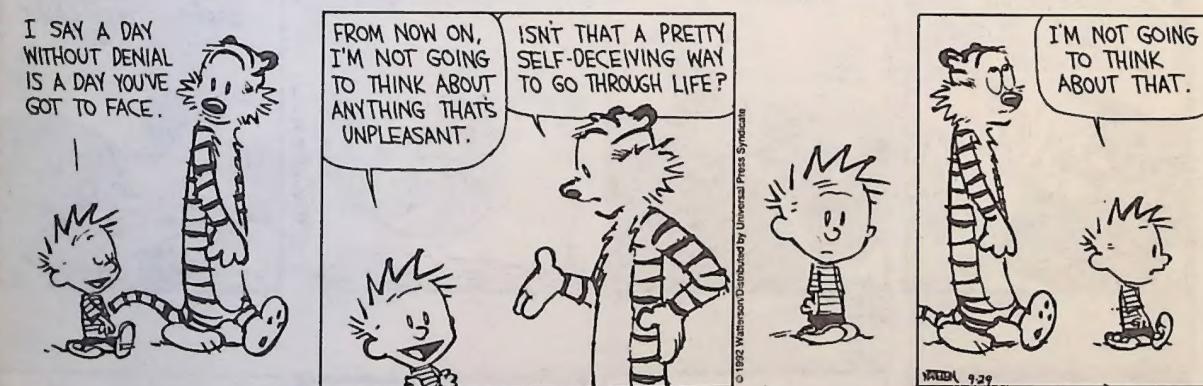
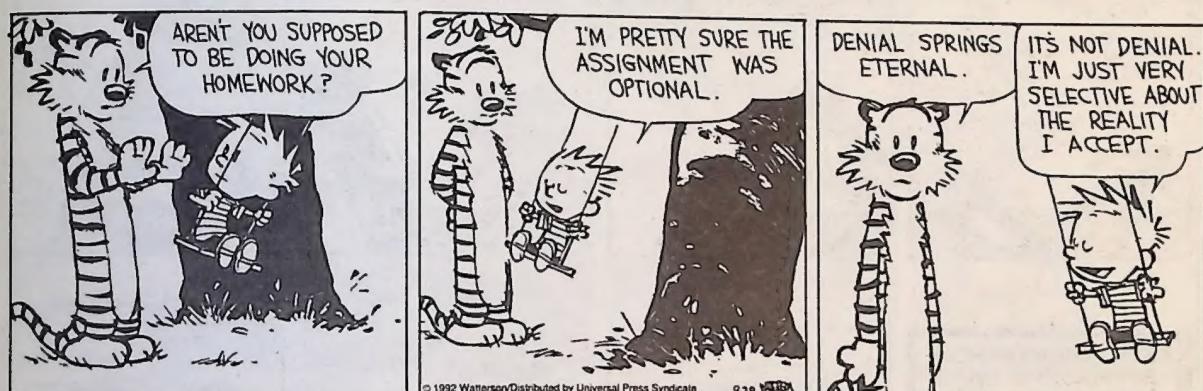
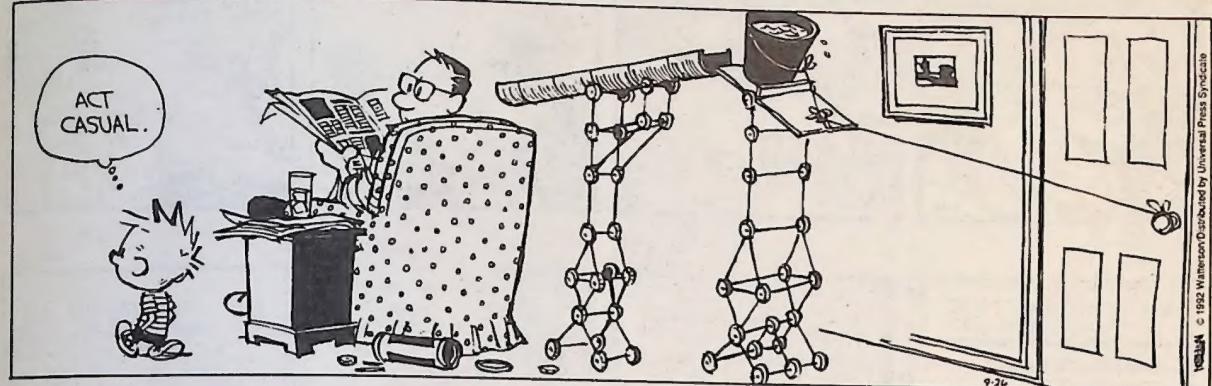
calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON





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humor me

by Izzy Gesell

As the inexorable winds of change continue to blow us toward the 21st century, it is obvious that the shape of the political landscape is about as permanent as a hedge awaiting the approach of Edward Scissorhands. The election of 1992 undoubtedly marks the beginning of a new era in our democracy. Fed up with traditional politics and politicians, THEAMERICANPEOPLE — each and every one of us — demand that each and every one of our personal special interests be served.

How in the good name of niche-marketing can anyone expect the present political structure to please 250 million people? If 36 cable channels, 1500 magazine titles, 5 long distance phone companies and 4 camcorder formats are not enough for THEAMERICANPEOPLE, why should our electoral choice be narrowed to only two political parties?

My crystal ball shows that by the year 2000 every PAC will have become a stand-alone partisan party. Some of the factions will be resurrections of previous political entities; others will be allied with cable-TV stations.

The Know-Nothings were a 19th century secret organization hostile to the growing political influence of immigrants and Roman Catholics. Expect it to devolve back into existence as the official party of high school students. Asked to find the United States on a map or to explain the concept of fractions, members will assume the stance and accent of mascot Sgt. Schultz (from TV's Hogan's Heroes) and aver, "I know nothsing." A sister organization, the See-Nothings, will be based in Simi Valley, California.

The American Whig Party, formed about 1834, was associated chiefly with manufacturing, commercial, and financial interests. This forerunner to the (surprise!) Republican Party will reappear with Si Sperling as its leader. In fact, not only will he be the presidential candidate, he'll also be in charge of members. Willard Scott will change his last name to Fillmore and run for vice-president. The planks, or strands, of the party platform will call for the right of every American male to dive into a swimming pool without embarrassment and for the removal of Mr. Clean products from supermarket shelves.

In 1912 Teddy Roosevelt ran as the standard-bearer of the Progressive Party, commonly called the Bull Moose Party. In 1993 this political entity will be brought back as the Regressive Party, symbolized by the Bull Goose. Championing the cause of Naval aviators, it will be headquartered in the Las Vegas Hilton.

Studio-based Home Shoppers Party candidates will never appear in public. Sometimes focussing on the candidates' hands, other times on their cubic zirconium collections, party chair Connie Stevens will host an educational yet off-price campaign show. The major innovation will be the money-back guarantee on all issues.

With nominating conventions held only in cities with confirmed Elvis sightings, the Nashville Party will aim to make the Grand Ole Opry the official residence of the president. NEA grants will be offered for hair sculpting and denim studding. Recipients will have to cheat, lie or do somebody wrong in order to collect.

You'll always be able to tell an MTV Party rally by the presence of women in skimpy lingerie wearing large campaign buttons. Rhetoric will be aimed toward the right of 12-year-olds to vote and/or get a permanent tattoo without parental consent. MTV's youth division, Nickelodeon Caucus, will groom future members...while the senior unit, Woodstock Cell, will reward members by continually replaying tapes of their youth.

The potential for the success of this party is huge because of its awesome demographics. There is a strong danger, however, from the Know-Nothings, who compete for the same constituents.

As the number of parties grows and grows, the desire for exclusion and exclusivity will intensify. The bad news is that this could lead to the breakup of the United States into fifty or more separate countries. The good news is that I'll be able to live in a country without Pat Buchanan.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





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